

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 33 of the First Extraordinary Session
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ernest "Black Cat"
Rasar of Elizabethton.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Mr. Ernest Rasar; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Rasar was a distinguished citizen of the state of Tennessee who was wholly dedicated to his profession, his community, and his family; and

WHEREAS, he was a superlative educator who ensured the progress and improvement of the Carter County school system by giving unreservedly of himself to develop this state's most precious natural resource—our children; and

WHEREAS, a native of Carter County, "Black Cat" astutely filled many roles: educator; teacher; principal; supervisor; superintendent; councilman; mayor pro tempore; referee; veteran; and many others, but it is probably his sterling contributions to education for which he will be best remembered; and

WHEREAS, Ernest was the son of the late Snyder Rasar and Lela Rasar Richardson; he was given his lifelong nickname, "Black Cat," because of his dark complexion and black hair; and

WHEREAS, "Black Cat" graduated from the University of Tennessee and East Tennessee State University with a bachelor of science degree in physical education and social studies, and later earned his master's degree in Education Supervision and Administration from the University of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rasar held many important positions in the Carter County School System, including meritorious service as an attendance teacher and supervisor; and

WHEREAS, prior to his retirement, Ernest Rasar served with great distinction as Principal of Happy Valley High School, a post he held longer than any other principal in the school's illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, he was the last elected Carter County School System Superintendent, a position in which he served with acumen and alacrity for eight years, ensuring Carter County's proper place among the best school systems in the region and state; and

WHEREAS, because of his tough, disciplinarian attitude, Mr. Rasar won the respect and admiration of teachers, students, and parents alike and became highly regarded as a professional and friend who was totally committed to quality education and the highest ideals of public service; and

WHEREAS, he was an extremely patient and giving person who motivated his faculty and students to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, a true sportsman, Ernest diligently worked with the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association and for colleges for forty years as a basketball and football official; and

WHEREAS, other jobs that this Renaissance man held include service with the U.S. Forest Service and D.C. Heath Publishing; and

WHEREAS, a natural storyteller, "Black Cat" entertained all types of people with intriguing tales of his life experiences, from his service with the U.S. Marines during World War II in the Pacific, Okinawa, and Occupation Forces in China, to the one-room school he attended as a child, from the basketball court to growing up on Stoney Creek; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Rasar faithfully worshipped the Lord as an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church of Elizabethton; and

WHEREAS, the celebrated legacy that "Black Cat" leaves behind will be fondly remembered and greatly treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Rasar enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Madelyn Rasar, and was the proud parent of Lee Anna Rasar of Eau Claire, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Ernest is also survived by his half-brother, John, and his three half-sisters, Lucy Peters, Patty Gentry, and Sue Ready, in addition to many nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Ernest "Black Cat" Rasar, remembering with admiration his exemplary character and his dedication to his family and his profession, even as we salute his many selfless contributions to his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy and extend our condolences to the family and friends of Ernest "Black Cat" Rasar.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.